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of any arrangement which the individual student may require, the advantage of cards becomes striking. Dr. Field's work is international in its character and receives financial support from societies both in this country and abroad, as well as from the Swiss government. It is under the special care of a committee of the International Zoölogical Congress. The work is, however, so expensive that Dr. Field finds himself embarrassed from lack of funds in his work. It is quite certain that if more subscribers could be obtained the merits of the undertaking would insure the permanency and gradual extension of the work. All professional zoölogists, physiologists, and anatomists are urged to correspond with Dr. Field, with whom arrangements for cards covering a certain group, such as Coleoptera, or a single system of organs, such as the Nervous System, can be made.

Methods in Systematic Work.—In a recent account of some marine annelids of the Pacific coast Prof. H. P. Johnson has based his descriptions and measurements "almost entirely" upon preserved specimens, and states that "there are positive objections in taking measurements from living worms," and that only in respect to color is there "any advantage in drawing up descriptions from living specimens." To be sure, among the higher annelids, the creeping forms, contractions and distortions in preserved material are not so aggravated as in the swimming and tubicolous forms, and in the latter the difficulty of making drawings or even descriptions from the living animals might be advanced as a positive objection. On the other hand, the poses and flexures of the worms in motion, aside from mere color, are often highly characteristic. The author adds, in extenuation of his method, that "nearly all annelid measurements extant have been made upon alcoholic material." This is true, but why? Because the greater part of the annelid literature, the larger works certainly, have not been based upon collections made by the authors themselves, but upon collections gathered by expeditions or accumulated in museums. On the other hand, the supreme value of such works as those of Schmarda and Claparède cannot be denied. The ideal condition would be a combination of the two. The naturalist is most fortunate who has living material for study, and willfully to ignore such study is evil. A habit-picture, if merely a description, does require a skilled artist, and is well worth the pains. It is to be deplored that the good old-fashioned methods of nature study, where descriptions were more than mere formulæ, are falling into disuse.